

ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS



PHIL 5451.001 (Spring 2006)
EESAT 225A, T 6:00-8:50 p.m.
Office: 225C (565-2266)
Office Hours: MTW 4-5 p.m. and
by appointment
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Purpose of Course

To examine basic positions in the field of environmental ethics and their relationship to animal liberation, moral and legal rights for nature, the history of ideas behind environmental thought, and environmental economics. These positions are taken from the writings of contemporary thinkers. They will be explicated from a philosophical point of view in order to determine what an environmental ethic is and should be and how they relate to and are supported by Western traditions.

Books

Aldo Leopold, *Sand County Almanac: With Essays from Conservation from Round River*, Ballantine, 1970
Jan E. Dizard, *Going Wild*, University of Massachusetts Press, 1999
Eugene C. Hargrove, ed., *The Animal Rights/Environmental Ethics Debate*, SUNY, 1992
Eugene C. Hargrove, *Foundations of Environmental*, Environmental Ethics Books, 1989
Mark Sagoff, *The Economy of the Earth: Philosophy, Law, and the Environment*, Cambridge University Press, 1988

Assignments

Leopold, "The Land Ethic," "Thinking Like a Mountain," and "Round River," and Hargrove, *Foundations of Environmental Ethics*, chap. 1
Dizard, *Going Wild*
Hargrove, *The Animal Rights/Environmental Ethics Debate*
Hargrove, *Foundations of Environmental Ethics*
Sagoff, *The Economy of the Earth*

Grading

The grade is based on a seminar quality paper, attendance, and class participation. Regular attendance and class participation are required. A grade of A will not be given without significant and regular class participation. Students will be expected to turn in a summary comment on the readings assigned for that night. These comments are part of the class participation. Late comments will not be accepted.

Seminar Paper

The paper should be approximately 20-type-written pages, including footnotes. It should compare the views of two or more environmental ethicists on some subject and defend one position against the other(s) or offer an alternative position. Footnotes should be numbered consecutively in the text. Although they can be at the bottom of each page, placing them at the end of the paper is completely acceptable (and my personal preference). The footnotes must include the name of the author, the title of the book or article (and the name of the journal), and page number (and in the case of journals, volume and year). Subsequent references should include the last name of the author, short title, and page number.

Students guilty of plagiarism will receive an F for the course. Failure to meet the requirements of the course will result in an F.

